



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Newport Middle-School Science Teacher Named 2009 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year**

In a surprise ceremony at the school, Governor Donald L. Carcieri today (December 3, 2008) announced that Barbara Walton-Faria, a science teacher at the Frank E. Thompson Middle School, in Newport, has been selected as the 2009 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Walton-Faria, who has been a science teacher at Thompson for 16 years, now becomes eligible to be selected as the 2009 National Teacher of the Year.

“Barbara Walton-Faria exemplifies the teacher that every parent wants his or her child to have in school,” Governor Donald L. Carcieri said. “Her love for teaching and lifelong learning helps stimulate her students to appreciate science and develop their own potential.

Congratulations to Ms. Walton-Faria and the Thompson Middle School for this wonderful recognition.”

A Middletown resident and a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Ms. Walton-Faria has recently served as a volunteer for Save the Bay and the Marine Mammal Stranding Network at the Mystic Aquarium. She serves on the Board on Women and Minorities of the American Meteorological Society.

Of her teaching, she says: “I work hard for the little daily accomplishments in the lives of my students: seeing the light go on for a student who is having difficulty understanding a tough concept, talking to a student about problems they may be facing, trying to ‘turn kids on’ to science.”

“Barbara Walton-Faria represents the best of the teaching profession,” said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “She is a teacher leader and a team player. She loves to teach and she teaches a subject that she loves. Both a teacher and a learner, she has served as a mentor for science teachers from across the state. I congratulate her on receiving this award.”

“I am particularly pleased that our 2009 Teacher of the Year has played a key role in establishing the student advisories at her school,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “Programs such as the advisories at the Thompson Middle School will help ensure that schools are safe and secure places for learning and that students will always feel connected to their teachers and their school.”

As one of her colleagues said of Ms. Walton-Faria in her candidate application for the Teacher of the Year award: “Students respect her. They enjoy and feed off her passion and energy. I would want my own children to have her as a science teacher.”